



Washington State Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium

Administered by the
Washington State Health Care Authority
Prescription Drug Program

What is it?

At the request of Governor Gregoire, the 2005 legislature passed a law creating the "Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium" to make prescription drugs more affordable to Washington residents by pooling the buying power of state agencies, local government, businesses, labor organizations and uninsured or underinsured consumers. The program will be administered by the Washington State Health Care Authority.

Note: The Washington State Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium is a different program than the new federal Medicare Part D that also becomes available in January 2006. Individuals can participate in both programs and the consortium may provide discounts on medications that are not covered by the new Medicare benefit, or other prescription coverage.

Who can join?

It will be open to the public, local government entities, businesses and labor organizations.

Who can benefit?

Washington residents who have no prescription drug insurance, as well as those who have prescription drug insurance, but whose insurance plans do not cover the particular drugs they need. There are no income or other eligibility requirements.

What will it offer?

The consortium will offer a comprehensive list of prescription drugs. Although the final structure of the consortium has not been established, the Health Care Authority is developing the program with the following principles in mind:

Affordability: maintaining low membership fees to provide access to discounts ranging from 15 to 20 percent on prescription purchases.

Accessibility: creating easy to use enrollment procedures to provide access to prescription drug discounts from local retail pharmacies, or through the convenience of mail order delivery.

Flexibility: continuing to develop additional options to be offered to consortium participants.

When is it available?

The consortium will begin operating in January 2006. Until then the Health Care Authority is creating a "Prescription Drug Purchasing Consortium Advisory Committee" to provide input on the final structure of the program, negotiating with potential vendors, and developing rules and policies to govern the program.

How do I sign up?

The final application process is still being determined. More information will be sent out as soon as it is available. In the meantime you can visit our website at www.rx.wa.gov for updates and other prescription drug assistance.

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